(e) lysing said virus.

17. (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein said method comprises centrifugation on a sucrose gradient.

18. (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein said method comprises pelleting said virus.

19. (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein the virus is lysed with SDS.

20. (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein said lysate comprises HIV-2 RNA.

21. (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein said lysate comprises HIV-2 p26 antigen.

22. (NEW) A method for producing an HIV-2 peptide comprising cloning an HIV-2 cDNA that comprises a fragment of HIV-2 nucleic acid deposited at the C.N.C.M. under Accession No. I-627 into a vector, introducing the recombinant vector into a host cell, and expressing the HIV-2 peptide encoded by the recombinant vector,

wherein said HIV-2 fragment hybridizes to a greater extent to the genomic RNA of HIV-2 than to the genomic RNA of HIV-1 BRU under hybridization conditions of 37°C for 16 hours in 5X SSC, 5X Denhardt solution, 25% formamide, and 100 µg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA, with washes in 2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 25°C; 1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 60°C; or 0.1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 60°C.

23. (NEW) The method of claim 22, wherein said host cell is a bacterial cell.

24. (NEW) The method of claim 22, wherein said host cell is a yeast cell.

25. (NEW) The method of claim 22, wherein said host cell is an animal cell.

26. (NEW) A peptide produced by the method of claim 22.

27. (NEW) A peptide produced by the method of claim 23.

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